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| **Name of Local Authority/Organisation** | Westminster |
| **Project Name** | Youth Council |
| **Lead member of staff** | John Nolan |
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| **Telephone Number** | 02076414030 |

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| **Youth voice strand that the case study demonstrates** | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Engaging |  | Campaigning | x | Influencing |  | Elections |  | Make your mark |

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| **Background and rationale: How did this work originate, what was the need and how was it identified?** | |
| There appeared to be a lack of engagement between the youth council an MYP and the senior council officers and elected members. We were keen to address this and develop closer working relationships so the youth council was in a better position to have influence in decision making processes and therefore be better able to represent the young people of Westminster. | |
| **Who was involved and what were there roles: (Professionals, young people, partners etc.)**  *Please add more boxes if necessary* | |
| Westminster youth council |  |
| Westminster Member of youth parliament |  |
| Director of children’s services |  |
| Staff from electoral services |  |
| The Leader of the Council |  |
| Lead Councillor for Families and children |  |
| Director of Youth foundation |  |
| Members of the council commissioning team |  |
| Staff responsible for the organisation of full council meetings |  |
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| **What did you do and how did you do it?** |
| Arrange for the member of Youth parliament to speak at a full council meeting – a positive and motivating speech that highlighted the positive contributions made by young people and the issues facing young people in Westminster today. The speech also included a ‘call for action, from all the Westminster elected members.  Following the meeting the participation officer and the MYP wrote to all the elected members asking for the opportunity to meet.  The Leader of the Council and several other elected members positively responded and arranged meetings.  Members of the youth council prepared for the meetings – creating an outline of the agreed youth council priorities to share with the elected members  After meeting with the leader of the council – they gave the youth council other key decision makers that would be good for the youth council to meet. – this was followed up and led to a meeting with the lead member of families and children.  The meetings resulted in developing clear and reasonable goal as that could be achieved and arranged feedback. |

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| **What was the impact, how did it affect change, what was different as a result of this work?** |
| The impact was the development of positive working relationships between the youth council and key decision makers in Westminster council.  The Leader of the council and fellow Elected members are supportive of the work of the youth council, are on board with the youth council’s priorities and have encouraged council services and departments to support the youth council agenda – including the Director of Children services, director of leisure services, libraries, social care and housing.  We now have an open forum with the leader of the council every 6 months.  Bi monthly meetings with the councillor for Families and children to help progress change.  An agreement to hold a large scale annual Cultural event that is youth led. |

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| **What were the outcomes for the young people?** |
| Experience of how young people can influence polies and services  Development of Positive working relationships with key decision makers  Confidence  Increase sense of value  Awareness of how they can make positive contributions to their own community |

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| **Are there any documents, weblinks additional information available about this? – please provide details of where these can be found** |
| www.westminster.gov.uk/youth-council |

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| **What was the key learning from this piece of work, What top tips can you give to others who may want to replicate or do similar work to this?** |
| Don’t be afraid to go to the top to seek ways for young people to be engaged.  Adults just need some sort of engagement tool that enables them to – take the perspective of the young person and vice versa  Have a clear plan of what you want to achieve  Be flexible  Don’t be afraid to ask |